

## REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his office action of March 19, 2008. In that office action, he rejected all the claims as anticipated by Jaynes (5,504,302) or unpatentable over Jaynes (10, 11), Jaynes/Ostrow (6), and Jaynes/Rox (7). Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 have been amended to better reflect the invention. For the reasons stated below, not of the rejections is proper, especially in view of the clarified claims.

### 112 rejection

In claim 3, there is now no need for a proper antecedent basis for "the protruding portion...".

### 102 rejection

The examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 9 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Jaynes. This is erroneous, because Jaynes does not show a handrail for a tarpaulin. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify this feature, which is not shown in Jaynes. Jaynes teaches a lighted handrail fastened directly to the hull or other solid surface of the boat and thus cannot anticipate this vital feature of claims 1, 2 and 9.

### 103 rejection

Claims 6, 7, 10-11 were rejected as unpatentable over Jaynes and various other references. Once again, Jaynes teaches a lighted handrail that fastens directly to the solid surface of the hull and is not attached to a tarpaulin. Thus, Jaynes teaches away from the presently claimed invention which is for being attached to a tarpaulin. Jaynes would not be "modified" to be attached to a tarpaulin by the use of the other cited references. As for claims 10 and 11, the bush is secured to the tarpaulin, not the boat. Thus, claims 6, 7 and 10-11 are not obvious and unpatentable over Jaynes.

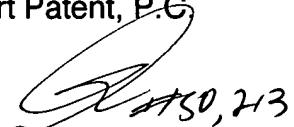
## Conclusion

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art as none of the cited prior art teaches a handrail (and the various components) attached to the tarpaulin.

Should the Examiner believe that an in-person or telephonic conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the Applicant's counsel at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 50-3068 in the amount of \$525 for a three-month extension.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dort Patent, P.C.

  
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